

For Sale.

MacEwen, FRICKEL & Co.

HALL RECEIVED FOR SALE.

CHRISTMAS STORES AND NEW AND SEASONABLE GOODS.

EX FRENCH MAIL STEAMER.
MUSCATEL RAISINS.
METZ FRUIT.
ASSORTED COCAQUES.
CALLARD & BOWEN'S CONFECTIONERY.
BUTTER SCOTCH.
HONEY SCOTCH.
ROSE TOFFEE.
LEMON TOFFEE.
ROSE'S LIME JUICE CORDIAL.
PLUM PUDDINGS.
PATRAS CURRANTS.
VALENCIA RAISINS.
MACKINNON PEN.
LIVERMORE PEN.
LAWN TENNIS BATS.
LAWN TENNIS BALLS.
LAWN TENNIS SHOES.

ST. YON CHEESE.
YORK HAMS.
CHRISTMAS CAKES.
TERRACOTT DESSERT FRUITS.
ALMONDS AND RAISINS.
SMYRNA FIGS.

PICNIC TONGUES.
PILCHITS.
COCOON.
VAN HOUTEN'S COCOA.
LIBBY'S & EPP'S COCOA.
FRENCH PLUMS.

HUNTLEY & PALMER'S BISCUITS.
PATR DE FOIE GRAS.
MINECEAT.
CHOCOLATE-MENIER.
SAUSAGES.
BRAWN.

WINES AND SPIRITS.

CHAMPAGNES—
HICKORY'S MONOPOLE & WHITE
SEAL.
VEUVE CLICQUOT PONSARDIN.
JULES MUMM & Co., pints & quarts.

CLARETS—
CHATEAU LA ROSE, pints & quarts.
CHATEAU LAITE, " "
IRE, GRAVES, " "
BREAKFAST CLARET, " "

SHERRIES & PORT—
SACON'S MANZANILLA & AMON-
TILLADO.
SACON'S OLD INVALID PORT
(1848).
HUNT'S PORT.

BRANDY, WHISKY, LIQUEURS, &c.—
1, 2 & 3-star HENNESSY'S BRANDY.
BISQUIT DUBOIS & Co.'S BRANDY.
FINEST OLD BOURBON WHISKY.
KINAHAN'S LL WHISKY.
ROYAL GLENDEE WHISKY.
CHATEAU D'YVONNE.
CURACAO.
ANGOSTURA.
BONNET'S ORANGE BUTTERS.
&c., &c., &c.

BASS'S ALE, bottled by CAMERON and
SAUNDERS, pints and quarts.
GUINNESS'S STOUT, bottled by B. &
J. BROWN, pints and quarts.
PILSENER BEER, in kegs and
casks.
DAUGHT ALE and PORTER, by the
Gallon.

EX AMERICAN MAIL.

Fresh ROLL BUTTER.
Eastern and Californian CHEESE.
BONNIE'S CODFISH.
PRIME HAM and BACON.
RUSSIAN CAVIAR.
Eagle Brand Condensed MILK.
PEACH and APPLE BUTTER.
Pickled OX-TONGUES.
Family PIG-PORK in kegs and pieces.
PARAGON MACKEREL in 5 lb cans.
Beet Ideal SALMON in 5 lb cans.
Cutting's Dressed FRUITS in 2 1/2 lb cans.
Assorted Canned VEGETABLES.
Potted SAUSAGES and Sausage
MEAT.
Stuffed PEPPERS.
Assorted PICKLES.
MINCEMEAT.
COMB HONEY in Original Frames.
Richardson & Robbin's Celebrated Potted
MEATS.
Richardson & Robbin's Curried OYSTERS.
Lunch TONGUE.
McCarthy's Sugar LEMONADE.
CLAM-GROWLERS.
Smoked SALMON.
Green TURTLE in 2 1/2 lb cans.
&c., &c., &c.

YACHT & PICNIC SUPPLIES.

CALIFORNIA

CRACKER

COMPANY'S BISCUITS in 5 lb

tins, and loose.

Alphabetical BIS-

CUITS.

Fancy Sweet Mixed

BISCUITS.

Ginger CAKES.

Soda BISCUITS.

Oyster BISCUITS.

Cracked WHEAT.

OATMEAL.

HOMINY.

CORNMEAL.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR.

RYE MEAL.

SPECIALLY SELECTED

CIGARS.

Fine New Season's CUSHAW TEA, in

5 and 10 catty boxes.

BREAKFAST CONGOU @ 25 cents p. lb.

SHIPHANDLING & every Description.

RIGGING and SAIL-MAKING promptly

executed.

Hongkong, January 26, 1882.

Entertainment.

THEATRE ROYAL,
CITY HALL, HONGKONG.FOR THREE NIGHTS ONLY, COM-
MENCING ON
WEDNESDAY, 15th March.

FIRST APPEARANCE IN CHINA OF THE
WONDERFUL AND FAMOUS
PROFESSOR ANDERSON,
PROFESSOR ANDERSON,
PROFESSOR ANDERSON,
Great Wizard of the North,
&c.

"In the absence of such a report, and in view of the small progress made in the Public Works in question, I must request you to once to furnish me with full explanations on the subject so as to enable me to come to an early decision as to the disposal of the surplus funds belonging to the Government of Hongkong."

"Subject to these remarks, I have to signify to you my approval of the estimates, and to convey to you Her Majesty's gracious confirmation and allowance of the Appropriation Ordinance for 1892, entitled 'An Ordinance to apply a sum not exceeding nine hundred and eleven thousand five hundred and ten dollars to the Public Service of the year 1892.'"

"I have to instruct you, on receiving this despatch, to have it printed and laid in full before your Legislative Council."

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

[SUPPLIED TO THE "CHINA MAIL"]

(Per E. A. & C. Telegraph Co.'s Line.)

GLADSTONE AND THE COMMITTEE ON THE LAND ACT.

LONDON, March 10.

The House of Commons agreed to Mr Gladstone's resolution by 303 votes against 235 condemning a committee of inquiry into the working of the Land Act.

THE BILL TO RESTRICT CHINESE IMMIGRATION.

LONDON, March 10.

The United States Senate has voted the bill to restrict immigration of Chinese.

SKOLBEFF'S SPEECH.

LONDON, March 11.

The Emperor of Russia has expressed displeasure at Skolbeff's speech.

THE WORLD-BE RECIDED.

LONDON, March 11.

Maclean is charged with high treason.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The next ENGLISH Mail, bringing London dates to the 10th February, may be expected to arrive here on Friday, the 17th inst., by the P. & O. steamer *Khiva*.

The delivery of the French Mail was begun at 1.30 p.m. to-day.

The S.S. *Gaite*, with San Francisco Mail, &c., to the 18th ultimo, has arrived at Yokohama, and leaves for this port to-morrow.

The Administrator has been pleased to recognize provisionally, and until further notice, Mr O. Vincent Smith as Consul for Sweden and Norway at this Port.

There arrived by the French mail steamer *Natal* this morning, the Hon. G. Philippo, the new Chief Justice, and to-day the ceremony of his being sworn in took place. Mr Philippo is accompanied by Mrs Philippo.

Messrs Butterfield & Swire informed us that the O. S. S. Co.'s steamer *Patroclus*, from Liverpool, left Singapore yesterday (Sunday) forenoon for this port and Shanghai.

According to a Government Notification in the *Gazette*, it will be seen that Dr. James Stockwell has, owing to the departure of Dr. Murray, been appointed Acting Superintendent of the Government Civil Hospital.

The Spanish steamer *Francisco Reyes* went to Kowloon Dock to-day, and the S.S. *Active* will go into the same place to-morrow. The S.S. *Ararat* appeared left the Cosmopolitan Dock; the S.S. *Altay* left Kowloon Dock, and the S.S. *Moray* and *Nelson* leave Aberdeen to-morrow.

At the Supreme Court this morning, in Summary Jurisdiction, Mr Sharp (Crown Solicitor) expressed to Mr Justice Russell the regret felt by the profession at the learned Judge's retirement from the Bench, and hoped that they would soon have the pleasure of seeing him again in a judicial capacity. His Honour thanked Mr Sharp, and jocularly remarked that he would not be sorry to see the hope realized.

An inquest was held this afternoon at the Government Civil Hospital before the Coroner, (H. E. Wobhouse, Esq.), and the following gentlemen as a jury:—Messrs R. C. Harley, E. H. Joseph, and J. R. White, touching the death of Young Ayee, stonemason, who died on Saturday last. The deceased was engaged working at the new works of the Chinese Sugar Refinery Company. On Saturday, the 4th instant, while standing on a scaffold about 14 feet from the ground and hoisting some stones by means of a rope, suspended from a wooden beam three feet above his head, he was precipitated to the ground by the beam giving way. He fell among some bricks, and his fellow-workmen removed him to their mat-shed, at the same time reporting the matter to a Lukong, who wanted to have him conveyed to the hospital; this, however, was not acceded to, and although the man had been treated by a native doctor, he succumbed on Saturday morning, about 8 o'clock. He was about 50 years of age. No medical evidence was taken. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

Yesterday evening, after dark, a rather desperate attack was made on a Sergeant of Police. During the afternoon a naval officer reported to Sergeant Hanson, who is stationed at the Peak, that a Chinaman, with a large stone in his hand, had followed him some distance until the officer's suspicions were aroused, when he stopped the Chinaman. The Sergeant accompanied the officer, a part of the way down to try and discover the Chinaman, but failed to get any trace of him either on the way down or back. Later on the Sergeant came down the Road some distance with a friend, and on the

way back was attacked by a Chinaman, (believed to be the same as followed the officer) with a bamboo, with which he inflicted a severe scalp wound; the Sergeant returning the blow with a stick he had in his possession. For some little time Sergeant Hanson was stunned, but on coming round, in conjunction with a Chinaman with a lantern, he made a search of the bushes in the vicinity, and there found the assailant he too having been somewhat stunned by the blow he had received. The Sergeant was taken to the Hospital, and the Chinaman to the Police Station. This morning the latter, Wong Ahong was brought before the Magistrate, but the case was remanded till Wednesday next. It is not known as yet whether the desperado was alone or accompanied by accomplices.

In relation to the application made by Inspectors of Police for an increase of pay in the following appears in Saturday's *Gazette*,—from Earl Kimberley to Sir John Pope Hennessy:—

Downing Street, Dec. 10.
SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr Tomlinson's despatch No. 8 of the 28th of September, forwarding a petition from certain Inspectors of Police for increase of pay.

You will acquaint these gentlemen that I have not failed to duly consider their several cases, but that I do not see any sufficient ground to justify me in acceding to their request.

The following account, duly certified, of the average amount of bank notes in circulation in Hongkong during the month ending 28th February, 1892, is published for general information in the *Gazette*:

BANKS.	AVERAGE AMOUNT IN CIRCULATION.	RESERVE.
C. M. Corporation,	906,106	330,000
C. M. Bank of India,	625,723	210,000
C. B. of India,	779,154	260,000
H. & S. Banking Corporation,	1,865,107	700,000
Total,	\$4,267,090	\$1,500,000

According to a notification in the *Gazette* the Governor has been pleased to grant four months' vacation leave and four months' leave of absence on half pay from this date to Mr Alfred Lister, Postmaster General and Collector of Stamp Revenue. Consequently on Mr Lister's departure on leave, His Excellency has made the following appointments:—

Mr Samuel Barff, to be Acting Postmaster General, retaining his Office of Assistant of the Supreme Court.
Mr J. C. de Roche, to be Acting Assistant Postmaster General.
Mr J. S. Rodrigues, to be Acting Collector of Stamp Revenue.
Mr F. A. Hazelard, to be Acting Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court.

ITALIAN OPERA COMPANY.

II TRUATORE.

The Italian Opera Company made their first appearance in Hongkong on Saturday evening, selecting for their first performance the favourite opera "Il Truatore." From what the Shanghai press had said regarding the artists composing this Company, it was expected that their efforts would be somewhat above the ordinary run of troupes which find their way east of Calcutta. It is satisfactory to have to report that such expectations were not disappointed, for in several respects the Italian Opera Company brought down by Signor Rodich is superior to most which we have seen here in Hongkong for many years. The manner in which Verdi's well-known masterpiece was placed upon the stage, taken together with the creditable vocalisation on the part of all concerned, at once proved to the audience of Saturday night that an unusual treat was secured for the music-loving public for the next few weeks. In the cast the most prominent figure was certainly that of Signor Giochi, as *le Conte de Luna*. The Signor has a good presence, an easy, cultivated manner, and probably the finest baritone voice of any artist who has visited this Colony. In view of the excellence of Signor Bergamaschi (who appeared here not long ago) this latter remark is high praise; but not a whit more than Signor Giochi deserves. Indeed, although the efforts of all the members were fully appreciated, it was apparent enough that the singular merit of the artist who sustained the rôle of the Count was the attraction which first warmed up the audience into real enthusiasm. His representation of the Count was worthy of all praise, and all who saw him and heard his superb voice were loud in their encomiums. Next in order may be mentioned Signora Silini (prima contralto), who, in the part of *Antonia*, the gipsy, displayed histrionic powers of a very high order of excellence; her personation of the character being so powerfully realistic as to suggest to one inclined to hypercriticism, a trifle of exaggeration. She possesses a powerful voice of great purity, and her artistic finish outshines her to the place of honour on the present occasion. Signora Lubici (prima donna soprano) and Signor Vanzetti (primo tenore) as *Leonora* and *Mauricio*, acquitted themselves to the satisfaction of the audience. The Signora, who has a sweet voice, is an accomplished actress, and appeared to identify herself with the part she played with graceful ease and accuracy of conception. In the scenes where she appears with Leonora, her careful acting was none the less appreciated, because it was free from any suspicion of exaggeration. Signor Vanzetti, whose voice is certainly that of a pure tenor, if a little forced on this occasion,

worthily shared the honours of the evening with the three artists above mentioned; the four named having been several times called before the curtain and received in a most flattering manner by the delighted audience. The minor characters were well represented by Signors Corti (*Fernando*), and Brunetti (*Ricci*), Signora Bertolini (*Isabella*), and Signor Paderno (*Capo dei Zingari*). As we have mentioned, the scenic and other details were more carefully attended to than we have been accustomed to in this part of the world, and the happy result fully justified the care thus expended. The chorus was also a vast improvement upon performances in Hongkong of late years,—an enjoyable feature of a very enjoyable entertainment. Although the orchestra was somewhat limited—consisting only of piano and first violin—it was wonderfully effective, a fact that is creditable to those concerned. Altogether, the Company may be congratulated upon having made a most favourable impression upon the music-loving public of this Colony; and if they continue to give as good ground for support as they have done by their inaugural performance, they will, we think, have no cause to complain of their patrons.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE POSITION OF THE PROPOSED OBSERVATORY AT HONGKONG.

To the Editor of the "CHINA MAIL."

HONGKONG, March 12.

SIR,—It is, admittedly, a hazardous proceeding to tit with a specialist in his own domain. Major Palmer, in his reply to my communication, commits himself to 'inconsistencies which certainly elicit surprise—coming from such a well-known disciple of the "Exact sciences." In the first instance, it is difficult to conceive how careful perusal could result in making "corresponding" synonymous with, equivalent, or confounded with an "absolute" signification. In conjunction with the commonly understood fact that the determination of longitude is a matter of more difficulty than that of latitude, I contend that the regret expressed in the opening passage of my letter of the 9th instant, that the brilliant officer did not extend his observations, for the purpose under discussion, is not at variance with even his far-fetched, and somewhat contradictory, utterances. The words employed by me are sufficient to convey, however, to unbiased time or period of observation, measured both ways, as well as leaving the scope of observation or methods adopted in the same unrestricted.

The expression of regret on my part (adverted to) was, I submit, based upon reasonable assumptions, viz., Major Palmer's (1) scientific precision in finding time and appliances; (2) long residence in the Colony, over three and nearly four years; (3) relation with the local "Observatory Scheme," from May last; and (4) connection with a branch of the army not unacquainted to the use of suitable instruments and the ordinary routine of his professional and scientific work.

With all due deference to a "F.R.A.S.," I contend that the accuracy attainable in Victoria would be vitiated in transfer, by triangulation or otherwise, to Kowloon. Independent observation would save the cost of a wire connection, besides serve as a useful check on results derived from either method, which I have not quite ignored. In concluding, I have only to add that Major Palmer in commenting upon my want of lucidity, has evidently befogged himself. No one can perceive how "absolute longitude" could be determined with even "moderate precision" while the last clause of his letter is a trifling, apparently, but not really, inconsistent. His language is too misty for ordinary comprehension, inducing misgivings as to the value of the information so kindly proffered, and hereof declined with thanks. Possibly Major Palmer is not aware that "about 37 years" is the duplication of a certain period as old as the earliest days of Astronomy, known even to the Chaldeans.

P.S.—I enclose my card, (should Major Palmer care to see it), which will, in some measure, tend to equalize the controversy should it be continued, for which, however, I can see no further occasion.

SUPREME COURT.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

(Before the Hon. J. Russell, Acting Puisne Judge.)

Monday, March 13.

BAIN v. RECHWALD, \$19.—This was a claim to recovery of the above sum, due for advertising certain performances, which the defendant gave in the City Hall, in the *China Mail* newspaper, the order being forwarded from the *Daily Press* office. It was stated that it was customary to send an order from one paper to another, as it aided the advertisers considerably. The defendant, however, refused to pay, and the *Daily Press* was forced to pay the amount. The defendant was ordered to pay the amount, and the *Daily Press* was ordered to pay the amount.

Mr Smith, of the *Daily Press*, said he remembered being told to forward the first advertisement by the defendant, and stated that he inferred, when a person inserted the first of such notices as those in question, he intended all subsequent advertisements to be likewise inserted.

His Lordship in non-suiting the plaintiff, remarked that he was sorry that he had to do so, but he had to give this decision on the grounds that there had been no sufficient proof given of an order or ratification of the order. His Lordship however was of opinion that the defendant, who had had the advantage and benefit of the advertising, should pay the money. His Lordship was also of opinion that the amount was morally bound to pay the amount by the defendant, and stated that the order payment, but he thought the defendant should pay the amount claimed, as any honest man would do.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

(Before the Hon. F. Snowden, Acting Chief Justice.)

No. 1095 SIX.

Mr Mossop, of Messrs Denny and Mossop, appeared for the petitioner, and Mr Johnson, of Messrs Sharp, Toller, and Johnson, represented the defauling creditor.

It was stated that the petitioner's liabilities amounted to \$130,000 and the assets to \$108,000, which were stated, with few exceptions, to be bad, or doubtful. Adjourned.

ation was granted and Thursday the 9th prox. appointed for the first meeting of creditors.

Mr Mossop applied for the release of the petitioner, who is at present imprisoned, but Mr Johnson opposed the granting of his release, until he had been Gazetted. The question of his release was adjourned until Monday next.

CHINA SUGAR REFINING COMPANY LIMITED.

The following is the Report for presentation to the Shareholders at the Fourth Ordinary Annual Meeting, to be held at the offices of the General Agents, at 3 o'clock p.m. on Friday, the 17th March:—

The General Agents beg to submit to the Shareholders their Report on the Working of the Refineries, together with a Statement of Accounts, for the year 1891.

The Working Account shows a considerable increase on the result of the previous year, being \$224,611.56 against \$198,425.04 for 1890, but the change for interest has been much greater owing to the larger amount payable on debentures, and the necessity of holding over during the last summer unusually heavy stocks both of Raw and Refined Sugars. At the close of the year the General Agents were successful in working up almost the entire stock of Raw sugar, and in holding only a small quantity of Refined Sugar unsold.

The Net Balance of Profit and Loss Account, including \$3,950.04 brought forward from last year, after providing for the usual charges, amounts to \$142,324.71. An Interim Dividend of 85 per share, absorbing \$300,000, has already been paid, on the 15th August last, and it is proposed to appropriate the balance as follows, viz:—

A Second Dividend of 85 per Share payable on the 15th March, 1892,	\$ 30,000.00
To apply towards reduction of Property Account,	75,000.00
To the credit of clients,	2,000.00
Leaving a Balance to carry forward to next account of	5,324.71
Total,	\$112,324.71

The General Agents, with the approval of the Consulting Committee, and with the object of consolidating the Establishments of the Refineries, have decided to purchase the Sugar House, and of the present machines which were in work there have been moved to Swatow, and the remainder have been transferred to East Point. A considerable saving will be effected by this re-arrangement of the Refineries, in the cost of superintendence as well as in coals and fuel, the result of which will, it is expected, be apparent in next year's accounts, and the valuable property of the Company at Swatow is made available for sale or for rental as may be found the more advantageous to the Company's interests.

The Manager, Mr. Henry Dickie, went home upon leave of absence in September last. He has visited the principal refineries in the United States of America and Great Britain, with the view of ascertaining more especially if any labour-saving appliances can be introduced into the Company's works with advantage; his report is looked for at an early date.

Property Account.—During the Year the Refineries have cost \$8,225.20, which sum has been placed to the debit of Working Account. The cost of some additional Machinery and the balance of the contract price for the new gallow have been added to the Property Account, which stands in the Books on the 31st December 1891, at \$259,461.14 against \$267,791.82, at a similar date in 1890. It is not intended to add anything to the Property Account during the Current year, as it is anticipated that the expense of removing the Wanchai Machinery to East Point and Swatow can well be borne by the Working Account.

Consolidating Committee.—Mr R. B. Bellini being absent from the Colony does not take part in the election of the Committee. Messrs T. D. Dawson and W. Reimers offer themselves for re-election, and Messrs A. McIver, and W. Kerfoot Hughes, have been nominated for the approval of the Shareholders, to the two other vacant seats on the Committee.

Auditors.—The accounts have been audited by Messrs Thos. Arnold and L. C. Ralston, the latter acting for Mr. Edward Cope who is temporarily absent from the Colony. Messrs Arnold and Cope are recommended for re-election.

General Agents.

HONGKONG, 9th March.

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THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S REPORT.

The following Annual Report from the Postmaster General is published in the *Gazette*:

General Post Office, Hongkong, 16th February, 1892.

SIR,—I have the honour to report on the British Postal Service in Hongkong and China during 1891.

2.—Few persons who have had much to do with the preparation of Reports, especially of such as are drawn up in the mere course of routine, can have avoided asking themselves whether these annually recurring documents are of any use? And when they mainly consist of masses of tabulated figures, it may be doubted whether they are of such practical service as to compensate for the heavy expense of printing. It is satisfactory therefore to consider that valuable additions to our Postal Service—General Post Office with India and Ceylon, and a Parcel Post Order system—have been instituted as direct consequences of the Report prepared in this Department last year. Advantage has been taken of the initiation of the India Money Order Commission (which brings to the decimal notice of this Colony) and to assemble the orders levied on Local and International orders to the sums charged on Imperial and Indian orders.

3.—A Parcel Post with France will probably also shortly be commenced. It may be hoped the time is not far distant when a small object, not of an unsuitable nature, will be transmissible by post at a moderate rate.

4.—Continental vigilance will have to be maintained however, to prevent the transmission of articles utterly unsuitable for forwarding by post. A complaint was received during the year from the German Post Office, that the box of *Vesta* matches forwarded in a Registered Letter from Shanghai had exploded in the travelling Post Office van, thereby nearly leading to an accident the results of which might not have been confined to the Mails or the Mail Officers. Lucifers of Japanese manufacture also took fire in this Office. The sender of the box of matches was not ready to argue that they were the most innocuous things in the world. Everybody is always convinced of the harmlessness of his own sample. A tin of sardines, for instance, looks as if it might go round the globe, and so, under favourable circumstances, it might. On the other hand it might not go round the globe without an unpleasant accident. It happens to be the bottom packet in a heavy bag, the coals which are carrying that bag to the wharf let it fall, the end of the tin is immediately driven out, and the contents of the bag soaked in oil.

5.—A correspondence arose with the London Office as to whether sugar should be classed as one of those substances which must never be sent by post as such. The letters exchanged are printed in the Appendix. In view of the importance of the growing trade in sugar it is a pity that the transmission of samples cannot be arranged, but it is impossible not to defer to the larger experience of the London Office which prevails such transmission to be practically unsafe.

6.—The trouble and delay caused by the large numbers of short-paid newspapers alluded to in last year's Report continued until the London Office cut the knot by sending them all out by private ship. They still arrive (but not by sea) in considerable quantities. All endeavour to get at the senders and impress on them that newspaper postage from the United Kingdom to China is Three-halfpence per copy.

7.—This was perhaps partly owing to the idea which prevails that under the Postal Union the rates of postage must be the same in all countries. It is not so. The rules of the Postal Union prescribe limits which must not be exceeded, but within those limits there is a discretion, especially as to the rates on correspondence carried long distances over sea. Hence it is that a newspaper sent from London to China by mail is sent at a higher rate than the reverse direction, i.e., from China to London. People out here wrote home and told their friends, "The postage is 2 cents, that is to say, a penny, and no amount of official statements could convince the recipients of this information that it was incorrect."

8.—It was found necessary to put a stop to a practice which prevailed here of printing letters without any attempt to prepay them. The senders were mostly clerks, and the reason for this bad habit would generally be found in the fact that the addresses in any given case were employed by some firm, to whose account the postage would be charged instead of coming out of the pocket of either the sender or the recipient. Now an unpaid letter gives at least twenty times as much trouble as a paid one, and all unpaid letters tend to retard the delivery of the mail in which they are. The person therefore who, having the means to prepay his letter, does not prepay it, can only be regarded as a public enemy. It has been necessary to remind the young gentlemen who carried on the practice referred to that prepayment of local correspondence is compulsory.

9.—No portion of the community is so determined to send unpaid letters if possible as the less intelligent class of Indian traders, some of whom will wander round the Office trying window after window to get their letters accepted without payment. In many other respects they are the most troublesome class of people the Post Office here has to deal with. "The careless way in which they write the addresses on letters, the apathy with which they view delay or loss of correspondence, their ineradicable belief that an unpaid letter travels more safely than a paid one, and their incomprehensible custom of refusing correspondence on the ground that they do not know the writer, or that they do not expect a letter"—all these things make them difficult to deal with in Postal business, and to these may be added their cherished habit of affixing stamps on the wrong side of the envelope, their belief that the person to whom a Registered Letter is addressed is bound to take it in, and worst of all, a way they have of complaining that Registered Letters have not been delivered because an answer has not arrived by the very first opportunity, although perhaps there is a letter, however packed, 1 venture to say, in the letter box.

10.—It has been necessary on two occasions to set in motion the law as to giving accurate notice of the departures of steamers, and several times to threaten to do so. It may be conceded at once the steamers cannot start to the minute, and therefore, they are to lose time by waiting for fixed hours, about which they are inquisitive; but it has always been a reasonable demand to read the Ordinances in a reasonable spirit, and not to make difficulties about trifles. Perhaps as the result of this, an idea seems to have grown up that any sort of notice will do for the Post Office Agents.

A pair of the silver glass globes used for Chinese times were sent to this office by direct mail, about which a complaint was made. The box was smashed into little pieces, and one of the globes was represented only by a handful of fragments. But the other, which came all the way from Brindisi, wrapped only in 14 lb. of brown paper, reached Hongkong unbroken.

Indian Post Office Manual, Preface, p. XXII.

notify their steamers to start at noon when they must know nearly well they will never move before evening or perhaps not until the following day. It may possibly be necessary to take further steps to establish a better state of things, but it is hoped the publication of these remarks may suffice. An hour in the business portion of the day, or two hours at other times (from dark to daylight not counting, however) is the extreme margin which should be allowed to elapse without supplementary notice.

11.—The contract mules will probably continue to leave on Monday during half the year. A letter on this subject from the London Post Office is printed in the Appendix.

12.—In July last the P. & O. Packet *Pekin* broke her shaft soon after leaving Singapore on the outward voyage. The mules were brought on here by the *Denadon* (Blue Funnel line) reaching this Colony and Shanghai four days after the respective contract times. A further delay of two hours in the delivery of newspapers, resulted at Shanghai, as there was not time to sort them in this Office.

13.—In February last the Japanese packet *Somima Maru*, which had on board the French and English Mails for Kobe and the English Mail for Yokohama, broke a piston and had to put into Amoy in distress. After a good deal of waiting, it was decided to send the mails on from Amoy to Shanghai, and thence through the Inland Sea. The *Mitsui Bishi* packet waited for them at Shanghai nearly a week and they did not reach their destinations until after considerable delay.

14.—The forwarding of mails to Japan, since the P. & O. packets ceased to be subsidised, has proved a somewhat difficult matter—difficult at least to carry out to the satisfaction of all concerned. Of two steamers starting about the same time for the same place, it is often impossible to form a reasonable guess as to which will arrive first. The Agents frequently cannot tell to within 12 hours or so how soon their vessels will start. When the chance of catching other packets at Shanghai or Yokohama is added, with a doubt whether the printed Time Table is being strictly observed, the problem often does become rather tough. Difficult as it may be, however, to point out the best route a day before, it is particularly easy to do so a week after, when all the possibilities have become certainties, a distinction perhaps somewhat overlooked by impatient expectants of the Mail, who fail to see why the Post Office cannot be equally well before the event. The rule of the Office has been *Non risa*, and, failing the appointment of an Agent of the Japanese Post Office or communities to choose the routes for mails, it will be adhered to.

15.—General International Statistics for the settlement of accounts were taken in May last. They passed off smoothly and without any irregularity. The errors in accounts, alluded to in previous Reports have nearly disappeared as much so in fact as they ever will. It is not possible, under the Union system, to have accounts as closely up to date as when each month's transactions were accounted for at the end of each month.

16.—A considerable increase is observed in the correspondence for Union Countries (other than the United States) forwarded to San Francisco for distribution. That for Canada forms the largest item, but Chinese letters for Hawaii (which has entered the Union) did far to outnumber it. Many Chinese letters are also forwarded to Cuba, Peru, and China, as well as to Costa Rica and the Argentine Republic.

17.—An improvement, suggested by Noel Trotter, Esq., of the Straits Settlements Post Office, has been introduced into the sorting of the French Mail. It is based upon the fact that, in sorting letters to many addresses, more time is consumed in calling to and from than in the actual packing of the correspondence. It is therefore an economy to detach two officers to perform a preliminary sorting of the correspondence into Sections, which Sections are then sorted, without walking about, by the others. Although the staff is necessarily reckoned by two, as each letter is sorted twice, the plan is found to save about fifteen minutes out of two hours. It may be possibly eventually to apply it to newspapers also.

18.—A table will be found in the Appendix showing the amount of correspondence posted in the Pillar boxes at the West End of the Town, which are cleared three times a day. As the boxes are maintained, as it is desirable to have frequent communication along so long a line of road. Should the Town spread much more to Westward a subsidiary Office near the Gas works would probably be necessary.

